



# **The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Strategy and Outcome Measurement**

**Chaired by Jo Silver, Director of  
Quality and Innovation**

**22nd September 2021**

# About SafeLives

We are a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. We combine insight from services, survivors and statistics to support people to become safe, well and rebuild their lives.

No one should live in fear. It is not acceptable, not inevitable, and together – we can make it stop.

**Ending domestic abuse**

# The Whole Picture



**The whole person:**  
domestic abuse is never  
all of someone's  
experiences or situation.

Ending domestic abuse

# Our strategy to end domestic abuse, for good



	<b>Whole Person</b> Seeing and responding to the whole person, not addressing a series of issue	<b>Whole Family</b> Adult victims, survivors, those who harm, individuals connected to the victim/perpetrator including extended family	<b>Whole Community</b> All communities of geography, identity and online spaces	<b>Whole Society</b> The general public and those who influence them: the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators
<b>Act before someone harms or is harmed</b>	People are treated as just that – people, and not issues. The complexity of domestic abuse and links to other adverse experiences are understood.	Protective factors are put in place for those at risk of abusing or being abused – people and services sufficiently understand domestic abuse and what makes it more or less likely to happen	Communities of geography, identity and online spaces are equipped to identify and act on early risk factors and warning signs of abusive situations.	Gender stereotypes are challenged and deconstructed – particularly those of masculinity – supporting boys and men to break these norms. Societal shifts see a reduction in the motivation and opportunity for different types of power to be abused.
<b>Identify and stop harmful behaviour</b>	Harmful behaviour is addressed by proactively identifying all motivating factors and consequences, such as other violence, abuse and criminality.	Individuals who abuse any family member are appropriately assessed for the risk they pose to all family members – and themselves.	Community members know they are more than passive bystanders – there is low tolerance and high urgency about identifying and holding to account those who abuse.	
<b>Increase safety for those at risk</b>	The protection offered to people means proactively checking that all risks posed have been addressed, not just the initial presenting issue.	The safety and wellbeing of all non-abusive family members – physical, mental and emotional – is defended from those who pose a risk to them.	Communities of geography, identity, online spaces and employers/businesses understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting the safety and wellbeing of those at risk.	
<b>Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs</b>	People are responded to as people, not an issue or series of issues. Both crisis and longer term responses to people who have experienced abuse are sensitive to their possible vulnerability to future adverse experiences.	When an immediate experience of abuse is over, all family members' safety and wellbeing – physical, mental and emotional – are (re)built. People are supported to live the lives they want, drawing strength from each other.	People who speak about their experience of abuse are believed. Communities and society validate their experience and support their process of creating safety, wellbeing and resilience so they can live the lives they want. The voices, strengths and needs of survivors are paramount, and survivors draw further strength from one another	



# **DA Bill to Strategy – What should it look like?**

**Daniel Ryan & Chris Hobbs**  
**Practice Consultants**  
**SafeLives**

# What is the Local Authorities' Commitment?

LA's are responsible for a number of challenges in the DA Bill such as:

- Governance
- A thorough Needs Assessment of their local offer
- Commissioning in line with this Needs Assessment
- VAWG Commitment
- Agreed Partnership arrangements with Statutory and Community Services working closer together

This can be helped by:

- A supportive and proactive relationship with local survivor groups
- Building on expertise
- Reviewing and refreshing strategy and provision
- Buy in from Partners and Stakeholders
- Monitoring and evaluation regularly (not just for the Needs Assessment) including practice reviews, qualitative and quantitative data gathering and narrative to support this data from local services/groups

# What is the link from the DA Bill to the Strategy?

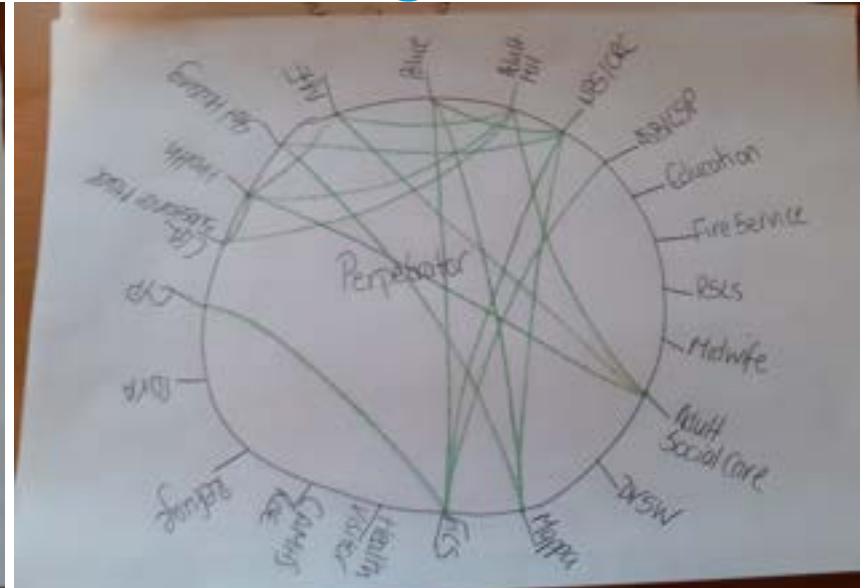
1. Promote Awareness of Domestic Abuse
2. Protection and Support for all victims
3. Tackle Perpetrators and People who Harm
4. Improve the Justice Response
5. Improve Performance

# Organisations, Agencies and Services

- Local Authorities
- Police Forces
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services
- Specialist Domestic Abuse
- Violence against Women and Girls Support Services
- Local Housing
- Homelessness Teams
- Registered Social Housing
- Early Years providers
- Education
- Children's Social Care
- Adult Social Care
- Community and Faith Groups
- NHS England and NHS Improvement
- Clinical and Commissioning Groups (2022 Integrated Care Systems)
- NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts
- Employers (Local and National)
- HM Prison
- Probation Services
- HM Courts and Tribunal Services
- Job Centre Plus
- Financial Services (Banks, Building Societies etc)



# Identifying what's missing



## Ending domestic abuse

# Local to National

- Principles of Whole Family Working should run through the Statutory and Community led responses.
- Individualised specialist support for all family members
- In depth knowledge of how to engage with difference groups and the nuances of Domestic Abuse within marginalised groups
- Each area has unique demographics and communities, embrace these and be creative writing your strategy.
- Specialist support for those that harm, and use abusive behaviour
- Robust referral pathways
- Build on the local risk led response, using evidence based processes (Idva,Marac) and when considering referral pathways, be sure to include step down options to community led responses.

Specialist risk led provision and step down options

Specialist (Age specific) Children and Young Person's provision

Engaging with those that harm provision



Authentic Voice - Co-production of provision and advise local areas and influence decision making

Agencies understand their responsibilities and roles within the area's multi agency approach

## A Whole Family Strategy

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# Our vision

Work well together and create the right response with children, adults and whole families

## Values: how we will be

### Accountable

We will take responsibility for our roles to help and protect individuals and families. We will challenge and support one another. We will create transparent and trusting relationships with children, adults and families.

### Bold

We will have the curiosity to understand the problem and the courage and integrity to do all we can to achieve the best solution.

### Caring

We will value, respect and empathise with every professional, adult, child and family.

### Dynamic

We will motivate each other to be innovative, creative and to nurture individuality.

## Principles: what we will be

### Flexible

**A commitment** to working in a way that is informative, reflective, responsive, and can adapt to the wants and needs of children, adults and the whole family.

### Safe

**A commitment** to hold each other to account, to understand interlinking risks and needs from all perspectives, and to take collective responsibility to help and protect all involved.

### Inclusive

**A commitment** to understand, respect and respond well to the individuality of each person, family and community.

### Collaborative

**A commitment** to creating a response that incorporates the perspectives, knowledge, skills and strengths of professionals and people with lived experience.

# Authentic Voice is integral to your strategy

- Build in time and space for individuals impacted by DA in the decision making process
- Make forums accessible and engaging for those impacted by DA
- No 'Them and Us'
- Make sure the process starts at the top and feeds in to all levels (the 'Golden Thread' running through your strategy)




**Thank you**



## The Journey

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- Cheshire East  
Domestic  
Abuse  
Strategy



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## Starting point

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- Draft Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy
- Strong specialist domestic abuse partnership
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Active survivor groups
- Integrated Front Door & Marac





## Where do we want to get to

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- Improved outcomes for families
- Implementing the new duty
- Greater understanding of local needs



## Whole Housing Approach

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- Framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors in a local area
- Referenced in Government guidance
- Template strategy



## Navigating the challenges

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- Meaningful authentic voice
- Gaps in data
- ‘Support in safe accommodation definition



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## Measuring Outcomes

- Feedback from survivors
- Improved data
- Changes to our database
- Measuring impact on families

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*We make it clear that ‘our’ system failed to protect her because agencies did take action, individuals did act, as did April, however, despite all that was done, the perpetrator exploited the system’s weaknesses placing April and some agencies and staff in a position where they had done all they thought they could do, or were allowed to do, at the time to prevent further serious injury*

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Thank you



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# Strategy and action planning West Sussex

**Faye Mills May**

Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Community Safety Lead

## Key objectives of the strategic framework

- Provide clear information on what our common strategic objectives are
- Improve our multi agency response to domestic abuse
- Provide guidance and support to front line professionals who have responsibilities for safeguarding and supporting victims of domestic abuse by providing a clear definition of domestic abuse, a clear framework for whole system change and family centered working – domestic abuse, prevention, early intervention and support is 'everybody's business'



# Key priorities



- Prevention and early intervention
  - Service provision
  - Partnership working
  - Pursuing perpetrators
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- Workshops
  - Online consultation
  - Service providers
  - Community consultation
  - Survivor consultation

**"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT REPERCUSSIONS FROM MY FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY. I THOUGHT THAT IF I TOLD SOMEBODY, I WOULD BE OSTRACISED"**

WORTH domestic abuse services have extended their opening hours to include bank holidays and weekends. You can contact them between 9:00 - 17:00 seven days a week for help, support and advice



Monday - Friday <b>0330 222 8181</b>	Weekends and bank holidays <b>0783 496 8539</b>	<b>#YOUARENOTALONE</b>
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**“I’M IN MY 70s, THE POLICE CAME AND TOLD ME ABOUT REFUGES. I SAID ‘NO, I’VE LIVED MY LIFE.’ HE TOLD ME THAT I WAS WORTH IT, THAT MY LIFE MEANT SOMETHING”**

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**Monday - Friday 0330 222 8181**

**Talk to us. We can help  
#YOUARENOTALONE**

- Strategic Focus
- Governance and operational structures are integrated Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Partners and Adult Safeguarding Board.
- Action plan, Pan Sussex overarching commonalties and each area has a locality focus
- Feeds into Pan Sussex partnership board in line with statutory duties set out in DA act
- considered holistically by agencies, not in isolation from each other.

- In Sussex, the three Tier One authorities have agreed to pool funds and work across local boundaries to implement a joined-up approach to reduce the 'postcode lottery' for those accessing services throughout the region.
- To work collaboratively with Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex County Councils and engage key partners, service providers and survivors across the County to produce a comprehensive and holistic, PAN-Sussex response to the new duty
- For a robust PAN-Sussex needs assessments to be developed to support Local Authorities assess their needs and demands on services
- Develop and publish a PAN-Sussex strategy based on the findings of the needs assessment.

- Journey – process to negotiating all voices in the room
- Authentic – genuine and real. Achievable goals, demonstrably value lived experience
- Turn consultation into co production
- Consistent, joined up, easy to access

**“I WOULD SEE HIM IN REALLY OBSCURE PLACES. I THOUGHT IT WAS A COINCIDENCE, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS THERE. IT CHANGES YOU, MAKES YOU SCARED AND PARANOID”**

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**0330 222 8181** | **0783 496 8539**

# Thank you



*“We’ve walked through fire to get our voices back; we’re not going to give them up now”*

**SafeLives Trustee & Pioneer**